Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 /163 W

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USMTN

PASS STR FOR ACTION CITED BY CONGRESSMAN PICKLE

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS ON MTN; MEAT IMPORT

PROBLEMS

REF: GENEVA 04552

- 1. THREE MEMBERS OF IPU CODEL WERE BRIEFED ON MTN BY DEPUTY HEAD OF DELEGATION CULBERT OVER EASTER WEEKEND. CONGRESSMEN DE LA GARZA AND PICKLE (TEXAS) HAD SEPARATE BRIEFINGS MARCH 27 FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR EACH AND CULBERT DISCUSSED MTN BRIEFLY WITH CONGRESSMAN MCCLORY (ILLINOIS) ON MARCH 26 AT SOCIAL OCCASION.
- 2. CONGRESSMAN DE LA GARZA WAS PRINCIPALLY INTERESTED IN POSSIBLITIES FOR INCREASED SALES OF TEXAS PINK AND RED GRAPEFRUIT TO EC. WE NOTED US IS ASKING EC TO MAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GRAPEFRUIT DUTY-FREE IN MTN, AND CURRENT EC DUTY IS ALREADY LOW (4) WHICH ALLOWS LITTLE SCOPE FOR SIGNIFICANT PREFERENCE MARGIN FOR ONLY MAJOR ALTERNATIVE SUPPLIER OF GRAPEFRUIT TO EC (ISRAEL) AND SINCE TEXAS PRODUCT AND QUALITY IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM ISRAELI VARIETY, IT SHOULD SELL READILY IF MAJOR MARKETING EFFORT MADE.

- 3. CONGRESSMAN PICKLE, ON OTHER HAND, WAS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN WHAT STEPS WERE OPEN TO US IN MTN (OR OTHERWISE, E.G. VIA NEW LEGISLATION) TO STEM INFLUX OF LOW PRICED BEEF INTO US FROM MEXICO AND AUSTRALIA. HE DID NOT BELIEVE US EFFORTS TO GET BETTER ACCESS TO FOREIGN MARKETS FOR US HIGH QUALITY BEEF PLUS EFFORT TO OPEN UP JAPANESE MARKET TO AUSTRALIAN BEEF SO AS TO TAKE PRESSURE OFF US MARKET WOULD DEAL WITH MOST URGENT PROBLEM FACING US BEEF PRODUCERS. HE SAID US MEAT IMPORT LAW IS DEFECTIVE IN TREATING ALL MEAT ALIKE; PROBLEM IS DEPRESSING PRICE EFFECT ON US PRODUCERS OF LOW COST IMPORTS. HE ASKED WHY IT IS EC CAN GET AWAY WITH VARIABLE LEVIES ON EC IMPORTS OF BEEF AND US CANNOT. HE INDICATED HE INTENDED TO TALK WITH AMBASSADOR STRAUSS AND SECRETARY BERGLAND ABOUT THIS.
- 4. BOTH TEXAS CONGRESSMEN WERE GIVEN COPIES OF BRIEFING MATERIAL PREPARED BY MTN DEL FOR CODEL ROSTENKOWSKI (REFTEL). MCDONALD

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